

a pair of slopes which meet each other to form a ridge that gets closer with an increasing distance from said first end face.

11. (NEW) A light guide plate in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a second end face, wherein the first end face extends in a first direction, the second end face extends in a second direction perpendicular to the first direction, the ridge extends perpendicular to the first direction and the ridge-like projections extend parallel to the second direction.

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 10 and 11 have been added. Claims 1-11 are pending and under consideration.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§102/103:

Claims 1, 3-4, 6-7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,334,690 to Ohkawa. Claims 2, 5 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ohkawa.

Using independent claim 1 as an example, this claim recites "said back face is provided with a great number of projection-like micro-reflectors." Thus, the micro-reflectors are formed on the back face.

In contrast, Ohkawa shows a light guide plate having light diffusion elements 13 formed on an emission face, as opposed to a back face.

Furthermore, the diffusion elements 13 of Ohkawa differ from the claimed micro-reflectors. Specifically, the diffusion elements do not "have a pair of slopes which meet each other so as to form a ridge that gets closer with an increasing distance from said first end face and extends in a direction generally perpendicular to said first direction."

As described in column 7, lines 26-46 and illustrated in FIG. 11 of Ohkawa, the light diffusion elements 13 are formed on the emission face 12C so that the emission face 12C functions as an emission promoting face having a scattering power. As described in column 7, lines 41-46 of this reference, this scattering power is adjusted by covering a rate of light diffusion elements 13.

As shown in column 7, line 41, each of the light diffusion elements 13 is a dot-like rough surface region. Thus, there is no description showing that the light diffusion elements 13 are formed of a rough surface region having slopes, in particular, a pair of slopes which meet each other as to form a ridge that gets closer with an increasing distance from the first end face and extends in a direction generally perpendicular to the first direction. Slopes 2E, 2F shown in FIGS. 1 and 3 of Ohkawa are formed on a back face 2B and face 2C are completely independent of the light diffusing elements 13 formed on the emission face. It is noted that the light diffusing elements 13 "scatter light" on emission from the emission face, and thus, redirect light in widely expanded directions. To the contrary, the claimed micro-reflectors realize redirection of light (i.e., direction conversion of light) mainly by means of double inner-reflections caused at each of the pairs of slopes of each micro-reflector.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1, and claims 2-3 depending therefrom, is requested. Independent claims 4 and 7 are similarly patentably distinguishable over Ohkawa.

NEW CLAIM:

New claim 10 is added and recites " wherein said back face is provided with a plurality of projection-like micro-reflectors and a plurality of ridge-like projections for direction conversion, each of said micro-reflectors having a pair of slopes which meet each other to form a ridge that gets closer with an increasing distance from said first end face." Accordingly, new claim 10, and claim 11 depending therefrom, is patentably distinguishable from Ohkawa.

CONCLUSION:

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is

requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 4-3-03

By: 

Michael J. Badagliacca
Registration No. 39,099

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001
(202) 434-1500